



CROP UPDATE

November 04, 2021



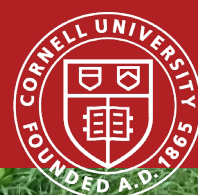
Harvest skies-11/01/2021
Kim Knappenberger

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



PennState Extension

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The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extensions in Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara county NY and in Erie County PA.

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Concords still hanging on

Nov 1, 2021

Kim Knappenberger

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New Dates!

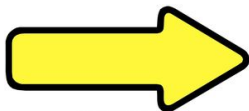
Take Your Vineyard Management to the Next Level with Precision Viticulture

Lake Erie vineyards have a lot of natural variation in soil type, vine growth, and crop yield, which impacts overall productivity and farm profitability. Precision Viticulture is the process of measuring, modeling, and managing vineyard variation on a sub-block level to improve production efficiency.

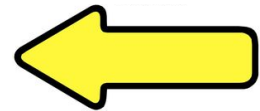
Getting started with precision viticulture can seem overwhelming with the need to purchase and learn new technology, such as vineyard sensors, GIS software, and variable-rate controllers. To address this challenge, Terry Bates (CLEREL) and Nick Gunner (Orbitist) developed an easy-to-use and web-based software platform for growers to benefit from spatial information on their own farms. The MyEfficientVineyard (MyEV) tool allows growers to collect, process, and map spatial observations in any of their vineyard blocks. There is an old saying that “the best fertilizer is the grower’s footprints in the vineyard.” MyEV now allows you to trace those footprints and spatially map what you observed so you can make the best management decisions for your vineyard blocks.

[Sign up and learn the basics of MyEV!](#)

- Tuesday, November 16, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 pm – Terry Bates and Nick Gunner will teach you the basics of the MyEV software. Growers will learn how to map the vineyard blocks on their farm, set up a spatial data collector tool, collect observations in the field, and map spatial observations. After the session, growers will have a week to test out MyEV on their own farms and ask questions of the research team over email.
- Tuesday, November 30, 2021, from 1:00-3:00 pm – We will have a “hands on” session at CLEREL to answer grower questions and walk through the mapping and data collection functions in the MyEV smartphone application.



Register for this
FREE Event here!



Business Management

Kevin Martin, Penn State University, LERGP, Business Management Educator

Vintage 2021 Business Review

For Concords, an early spring frost set off alarm bells. With many varieties in short supply, Concord included, nothing could be worse than having a shifting demand curve with a lack of supply.

Whether it was bud count, fruit set, or large berries most frost damaged vineyards saw smaller crops than their neighbors but still above average. Then there was the hail, it initially appeared to impact a fairly significant number of acres. Some appeared to have visual damage that did not significantly impact yield. Unfortunately, for a small percentage of growers it was a complete disaster. It was significant enough to cause some issues with the local pinot noir market. The surprise here is that these disasters initially appeared to be widespread events that might have lasting market consequences. As we wrap up the season it appears that all but the most severe frost damage had above average yields and did not struggle with brix accumulation.

For some, gross revenue will set records this year. Natives produced at volume for juice and wine that were harvested timely combined nicely for high yields and prices. No doubt this publication covered the general theme of dilution. A few growers did struggle with brix accumulation to make timely cash market deliveries. Concord processors all report receiving either a record amount of fruit or close to it on a per acre basis. Average brix for juice grapes are around 15.7 across all processors in the Lake Erie Region. This is significantly lower than average. It is also difficult to imagine having a year with a lower average unless changes in minimum standards across all processors were implemented.

As far as Cooperatives are concerned the theme is similar. Brix accumulation was a larger concern and is likely to impact revenue for some growers. These growers cannot know for sure how gross revenue will shake out. Most signs point toward a healthy market. Growers certainly expect some carry-over of high prices and retail conditions seem extremely healthy. Rising business costs, particularly related to the containment of such large crops, may impact payments somewhat. Overall these markets seem competitive with the bulk cash market. They're also in better shape than smaller markets right now. There is some potential here to see some record breaking revenue for growers that reached minimum brix standards. Around 15% of the market continues to struggle through harvest. Until harvest is complete, the verdict is out. Many individual growers that have completed harvest report some of the highest yields they've ever had.

Products that indirectly compete with grapes have seen significant increases in price. This is most apparent in the juice grape market as corn, processing apples and other commodities have increased in price. This provides us with some expectations that prices going forward will be reasonably healthy for the next 11 months.

Containment of this crop and brix accumulation issues have delayed the conclusion of harvest. Processing facilities in the Lake Erie Region closed or plan to close between October 29 and November 17th. As of this writing, just one facility has concluded harvest. This will easily break records for the longest overall harvest at 10 weeks for Concords with other varieties harvested before and during that period. Crop containment has led to increased concentrate volume, trucking and even unharvested fruit.

Lower priced wine grapes, particularly natives and older hybrids have had a tough year. These prices have come down over the last few years and many markets are still not paying a premium for these varieties. Now the market looks particularly bad as Concord prices rise. I would expect the acreage of these varieties to be reduced if market conditions do not change quickly. Of course, that is likely to create a shortage in a few years. The cycle continues.

In the midst of the whirlwind of harvest, it is difficult to think outside of the box of yield, price and gross revenue. Market issues and challenges outside of these areas will continue to challenge growers going forward. The success most growers have had this year with yield, price and revenue will put them in a position to sustain and even invest to reduce the impact of other challenges. Some of these challenges are immediate and cannot be avoided. Going forward, grape prices will need to be average more than they did 5 – 20 years ago to remain sustainable.

Fertilizer prices have been the most dramatic change in input costs. Labor challenges are easily the most expensive challenge. This has been a long-term issue that is less surprising but has been worsening rapidly. Most surprising has been the challenges of the supply chain as this impacts growers just as it does other industry. It is not just toilet paper anymore. Seemingly random supplies become more expensive, unavailable or delayed. Imports are one source of this challenge but it has not been limited to imported goods. In addition to paying more, going forward growers will need to plan more. As real time inventory is failing the system, it is becoming clear that inventory is the responsibility of the end user. This is not the most efficient allocation of resources, but for the time being it is what we have to deal with.

For many growers this may well be the most successful year ever. Of course in the midst of that success we must acknowledge the challenges and disasters of other growers as well as the future challenges that the industry will inevitably face. In some ways it is rather exciting as the success of today creates the resources to respond, to change and to grow. With many future challenges mostly knowable the success of the industry and individual growers will depend on the decisions and allocation of resources that were created by 2021. Best of luck with the remainder of harvest.



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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

Around the Belt

Today is November 4, 2021 and there are still harvesters picking and trucks hauling grapes. Many of you have reported that your harvest is complete and that you have experienced one of the largest crops remembered, if not the largest. Now is the time for not only you, but the vines to rest.



photo 1. Concord harvest continues for some in November

The vines need a period of rest after working to ripen the large crops around the region. Ideally, I would prefer to see a couple weeks of rest before leaf fall so that the photosynthesis can help to build up root storage for the dormant season. After harvest, the vines begin to enter dormancy. The leaves fall and the mature wood holds the buds for next year's crop potential. This is a critical time for the vines when they require exposure to lower temperatures to acclimate. Acclimation is the period of transition from the non-hardy to the cold hardy conditions that hit midwinter.

Acclimation is a slow process that begins when the shoots stop growing and turn from green to woody canes, as the vascular bundle, which carry food and water through the vine, slows down after fruit maturation. It happens when the outermost cells of the phloem ("Flow'em = Food") (at this point inactive and very thin) and brown cortex make up the periderm, or mature wood. By the time the leaves begin to fall off and redistribution of materials happen in the vine towards the canes, cordons, trunks, and roots readying the vine for dormancy. The cells begin to dehydrate and increase in their freezing tolerance. I can attest to the freezing temperatures approaching with snow on my vehicle this morning.

Hopefully most of you are able to rest and gear up for the upcoming pruning season. In the

meantime, please reach out with any questions that you may have, catch up on our podcasts or video blogs, and check out the upcoming in-person class on how to use MyEV tool. If you opted for text alerts, then you should have received a reminder this morning and if not, you can read the article in this crop update.

On another note, Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, Assistant Professor in Weed Ecology and Management for Specialty Crops at Cornell, forwarded some information on strategies for addressing herbicide shortages in 2022. It is a company-provided material from NyFarm and we would like to make it clear that we do not endorse one company over another, just that the material provided is good, general information. You can find that information by clicking this link [Navigating Through Product Shortages](#)



photo 2. Gondola dump of harvested Concords



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Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP

NEWA Update:

Station news: In the past two weeks both the Westfield and East Westfield stations have reported some extra precipitation (like we need that!) due to interference in the cell signal. Both of those stations are cellular where the others use wifi to send the data. This is currently being looked into and hopefully remedied in the near future. If you do a weather data query for either station and notice that there is an extra 2.57, 2.58, or 5.45 inches in one day – or one 15 minute interval, don't be alarmed! It could just be that extra spike. Although you might just want to double check with another station nearby to be sure you don't need to get the waders out! Looks like we might actually have some days of sunshine coming... fingers crossed!

The Dunkirk station located at the airport has recently had a plugged rain bucket. Thanks to a tip from someone locally, they have been contacted and were able to get that cleaned out so that moving forward the amounts reported should be more reliable.

There are some great tutorials on how to navigate the new NEWA website that you can watch when you get a chance. You can find them at this [link on the NEWA website](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu. Dan Olmstead has also recently added some [grape berry moth](#) and [grape disease](#) quick start videos. You can click those links or find the Watch Tutorial button on the left menu in the Grape Berry Moth tool.

The screenshot shows the NEWA website interface for the Grape Berry Moth tool. A red arrow points to the "WATCH TUTORIAL" button in the top left navigation menu. The main content area displays "Results for Westfield, NY" with a "Wild Grape Bloom" date of 06/04/2021. A calendar for October 2021 is visible on the left side of the interface.

NEWA
WATCH TUTORIAL

Grape Berry Moth
a partnership of &

Home Weather Tools Crop & IPM Tools

Results for **Westfield, NY**
Latitude: 42.34
Longitude: -79.57
Elevation: 671 ft

Courtesy of [Lake Erie Regional Grape Program](#)
Last download: 10/31/2021, 11:00 PM

Wild Grape Bloom
06/04/2021

Wild Grape Bloom date above is estimated based on degree day accumulations or user input. Enter the actual date for blocks of interest and the model will calculate the results more accurately.

Accumulated degree days (base 47.14°F SA) wild grape bloom through 10/1/2021: **2715**

October 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Show/Hide

As always, if you notice something is not quite right on your favorite weather station please send an email to ksk76@cornell.edu.

VIP

There is currently one more year to apply for this grant. Applications will be accepted until October of 2022 and then projects will have one more year to be completed - by October 2023.

If you are interested please visit the website at <https://lergp.com/about-vip> to learn more and to apply. Any questions please contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu.

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Other links of interest:

[LERGP Web-site:](#)

[Cornell Cooperative Extension website:](#)

[Cornell CALS Veraison to Harvest Newsletter:](#)

[Efficient Vineyard:](#)

[Appellation Cornell Newsletter:](#)



COVID-19 resources:

Need information? View the following Cornell CALS and CCE Resource Pages Updated Regularly

<https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/>

Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions:

<https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions:

<http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>

Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:

<https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>

Cornell Farmworker Program

www.farmworkers.cornell.edu

www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en espanol)